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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 July 1951

SUBJECT CKD Plant in Chocen

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1. The branch plant of the Ceskomoravska Kolben Danek National Corporation in Chocen (051/N09) produces refrigerating equipment and iron tubs. During March and April 1951 the plant produced about 25 large refrigerating units, primarily for export to the USSR. The CKD plant occupies several of the buildings which formerly belonged to Mraz Aircraft Construction Corporation. Three other buildings of this company in the same vicinity are now used by Let National Corporation and are used for the construction of Storch and Sokol sports planes. Let also uses a large new assembly hall at the Chocen Na Dvorisku airfield.
2. The CKD plant is expanding to meet the demand for refrigerating equipment by the USSR. Work is done in two shifts, except in the lathe department where three shifts are worked. It is planned that the number of workers should reach about 2,000 during 1951. About 20 percent of the present workers are ardent Communists. Most of the plant is surrounded by a wooden fence. It is guarded by a workers' militia of about 30 men and a uniformed plant guard of about 12 men. Entrance to the plant is allowed only on the presentation of an identification card. No anti-air raid precautions have yet been taken. The plant manager is Faltis, about 45 years old. The technical manager is Frantisek Steiner, a fanatical Communist. The cadre officer is Rehak, also a fanatical Communist.
3. The lathe department of the CKD plant is equipped with one large and three small planers, five cutting machines, three large lathes, about twenty small lathes, one large horizontal and several vertical drill presses, two large lathes for turning crankshafts, two horizontal lathes for turning cylinders and one large lathe for flywheels. The tool shop has three lathes, two cutters and one planer. In the forge are two air and one spring power hammers; the grinding shop is equipped with six German and six Swiss grinders. There is a critical shortage of non-ferrous metals.

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